

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PHASING OUT THE PEN-RAISED PHEASANT PROGRAM;
5 REQUIRING A STUDY TO REPLACE THE PEN-RAISED PHEASANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING AN
6 APPROPRIATION; REPEALING SECTION 26, CHAPTER 552, LAWS OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR
7 CONTINGENT VOIDNESS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

8
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Phased termination of pen-raised pheasant program -- interim study**

12 **required.** (1) (a) Before January 1, 2027, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and the department of
13 corrections shall terminate the program authorized by section 26, Chapter 552, Laws of 2021.

14 (b) The pen-raised pheasant program may be reduced in phases, but the funding for and
15 production of pheasants must be reduced by at least 25% in each calendar year after [the effective date of this
16 act].

17 (2) In preparation for the termination of the pen-raised pheasant program required by subsection
18 (1), the environmental quality council and the law and justice interim committee shall study replacing the pen-
19 raised pheasant program operated through Montana correctional enterprises and, before September 15, 2025,
20 shall:

21 (a) evaluate the missions of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and Montana correctional
22 enterprises;

23 (b) consider options to continue a partnership between the department of fish, wildlife, and parks
24 and Montana correctional enterprises after termination of the pen-raised pheasant program. Options must focus
25 on fulfilling the missions of both organizations while utilizing existing resources, including those obtained for the
26 pen-raised pheasant program.

27 (c) publish a report, including any proposed legislation.
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